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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/721,143	11/25/2003	Jesse R. Crookston	14298	6316

7590 05/10/2006

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EXAMINER

TAWFIK, SAMEH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3721

DATE MAILED: 05/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/721,143

Applicant(s)

CROOKSTON ET AL.

Examiner

Sameh H. Tawfik

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-12, 18-21, 25-27 and 32 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 13-17, 22-24 and 28-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11252003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of Species I (Figs. 2A-2F; Claims 1-3, 13-17, 22-24, and 28-31) in the reply filed on 03/10/2006 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 13-17, 22-24, and 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wipasuramonton et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,899,490).

Wipasuramonton discloses a method of folding an airbag cushion comprising the steps of: providing an airbag cushion having a longitudinal fill chamber (Fig. 12; via pleat section 104) in fluid communication with a contact chamber (Fig. 12; via rolled portion 90), the chambers each having an inboard face and an outboard face (via upper and lower layers of the airbag); flattening the inboard face of the airbag cushion against the outboard face of the airbag cushion (Figs. 4-6), compression-folding the contact chamber portion of the airbag cushion (Figs. 6-7, 8, and 12-15; via by rolling portion of the airbag); and pleat-folding the inboard face and the outboard face of the longitudinal fill chamber portion of the airbag cushion (Fig. 12; via pleating portion 104).

Regarding claim 2: wherein the step of pleat-folding the inboard face and the outboard face of the longitudinal fill chamber portion of the airbag cushion comprises producing a single

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pleat in the inboard face of the airbag cushion and a single pleat in the outboard face of the airbag cushion (Fig. 12; via pleats and folding portion 104 done by folding both outboard and inboard faces of the airbag).

Regarding claim 3: wherein the step of pleat-folding the inboard face and the outboard face of the longitudinal fill chamber portion is followed by the step of wrapping the pleat of the inboard face and the pleat of the outboard face about the compression-folded contact chamber portion of the airbag cushion, see for example (Figs. 12-17).

Regarding claim 13: wherein the step of pleat-folding the inboard face and the outboard face of the longitudinal followed by a step of folding the pleat of the inboard face and the pleat of the outboard face of the longitudinal fill chamber toward the contact chamber portion of the airbag fill chamber portion of the airbag cushion, see for example (Figs. 12-17; via by folding the pleated portion 104 in different steps and different fold lines toward the contact rolled portion/chamber).

Regarding claim 14: wherein the step of folding the pleat of the inboard face and the pleat of the outboard face of the longitudinal fill chamber away from the contact chamber portion of the airbag cushion (via the pleated portion 104 is away from the contact portion 90) is followed by a step of placing the compression folded contact chamber portion of the airbag cushion (90) against the inboard pleat of the longitudinal fill chamber of the airbag cushion (Fig. 15; via portion 90 against the pleated portion).

Regarding claim 15: wherein the step of compression-folding the contact chamber portion of the inflatable curtain airbag cushion comprises roll-folding the airbag cushion (Figs. 12-15; via portion 90).

Regarding claim 16: wherein roll-folding the airbag cushion comprises rolling the contact chamber portion of the airbag cushion toward the inboard face of the airbag cushion (Figs. 12-15; via portion 90 rolled toward the inboard face).

Regarding claim 17: wherein roll-folding the airbag cushion comprises rolling the contact chamber portion of the airbag cushion toward the outboard face of the airbag cushion (Figs. 12-15; via portion 90 rolled toward the outboard face).

Regarding claim 22: providing an inflatable curtain airbag cushion having an attachment edge, a distal edge and a longitudinal fill chamber (104) in fluid communication with a contact chamber (90), the chambers each having an inboard face and an outboard face (via both layers of the airbag); flattening the inboard face of the airbag cushion against the outboard face of the airbag cushion (Figs. 4-6), compression-folding the contact chamber portion (via rolled portion 90) of the airbag cushion; and pleat-folding the inboard face and the outboard face of the longitudinal fill chamber portion of the airbag cushion (via pleated portion 104).

Regarding claim 23: wherein the step of pleat-folding the inboard face and the outboard face of the longitudinal fill chamber portion of the airbag cushion comprises producing a single pleat in the inboard face of the airbag cushion and a single pleat in the outboard face of the longitudinal fill chamber portion of the airbag cushion (Figs. 12-14; via folding the inboard face of the airbag).

Regarding claim 24: wherein the step of pleat-folding the inboard face and the outboard face of the longitudinal fill chamber portion is followed by the step of wrapping the pleat of the inboard face and the pleat of the outboard face of the longitudinal fill chamber portion (104) about the compression-folded contact chamber portion (90) of the airbag cushion (Figs. 12-15).

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Regarding claim 28: wherein the step of compression-folding the contact chamber portion of the inflatable curtain airbag cushion comprises roll-folding the contact chamber portion of the airbag cushion from the distal edge of the airbag cushion toward the attachment edge of the airbag cushion (Figs. 12-15; via rolled portion 90).

Regarding claim 29: wherein roll-folding the contact chamber portion of the airbag cushion from the distal edge toward the attachment edge comprises rolling the contact chamber portion of the airbag cushion toward the inboard face of the airbag cushion (Figs. 12-15).

Regarding claim 30: wherein roll-folding the contact chamber portion of the airbag cushion from the distal edge toward the attachment edge comprises rolling the contact chamber portion of the airbag cushion toward the outboard face of the airbag cushion (Figs. 12-15).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sameh H. Tawfik whose telephone number is 571-272-4470.

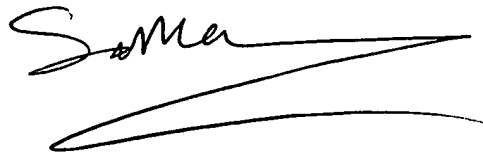
The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday - Friday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi Rada can be reached on 571-272-4467. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sameh H. Tawfik
Patent Examiner
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sameh', followed by a long horizontal stroke and a curved underline.

ST.